

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00121 201639Z

63

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 DPW-01 DHA-02 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 ( ISO ) W

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R 201555Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3669

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0121

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGSC PBOR, PFOR, FR, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: FRENCH PRISONERS OF POLISARIO

REF: ALGIERS 0106

1. JN. 20 PRESS CARRIED REUTERS REPORT FROM PARIS THAT  
TWO FRENCH COOPERANTS, PIERRE SEGURO AND JEAN-PAUL DIEF,  
WOULD BE TRIED BY A POLISARIO "REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY  
TIRBUNAL." POLISARIO CAPTURED COOPERANTS FOLLOWING AMBUSH  
IN NORTHERN SAHARA OF MOROCCAN MILITARY CONVOY WHICH TWO  
FRENCHMEN HAD JOINED. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JAN. 19,  
POLISARIO SPOKESMAN HABIBALLAH IS REPORTED BY PRESS TO  
HAVE SAID THAT, ONCE INVESTIGATION COMPLETED,  
DECISIONS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED.

2. FOREIGN COORESPONDENT WHO ATTENDED POLISARIO PRESS  
CONFERENCE JAN. 19 HAD IMPRESSION THAT POLISARIO  
INTENDED RELEASE COOPERANTS IN NEAR FUTURE. HABIBALLAH,  
CORRESPONDENT SAID, HAD NOTED THAT TRAVELERS IN SAHARA  
SHOULD BE AWARE THAT, MOROCCAN STATEMENTS TO CONTRARY  
NOT WITHSTANDING, THERE IS A WAR ON IN REGION. PERSONS  
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00121 201639Z

WISHING TO VISIT SAHARA, HABIBALLAH ADDED, SHOULD DO SO

UNDER POLISARIO AUSPICES AS NUMBEROUS JOURNALISTS HAVE  
DONE RECENTLY. IF THEY CHOOSE TO TRAVEL WITHOUT  
POLISARIO AUTHORIZATION, THEY DO SO AT OWN RISK.  
CORRESPONDENT INTERPRETED THESE REMARKS TO MEAN THAT  
POLISARIO HAD DECIDED TWO FRENCHMEN WERE IN FACT  
INNOCENT, IF MISGUIDED, TRAVELERS AND NOT PART OF  
MOROCCAN MILITARY EFFORT.

3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE, HABIBALLAH REITERATED POLISARIO'S  
JANUARY 16 DENIAL THAT IT WAS HOLDING ADDITIONAL FIVE  
FRENCH TOURISTS MENTIONED REFTEL.PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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